

# Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Issued: 0900 CDT



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National Weather Service  
*Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX*



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## Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma Continued improvement to central and eastern portions. Extreme to exceptional drought confined to western quarter of state and panhandle.
- New Mexico Conditions continue to deteriorate. Nearly 90% of the state in extreme to exceptional drought.
- Texas Little overall change. Minor improvements along the Rio Grande and in northeast TX.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

June 18, 2013  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### Oklahoma

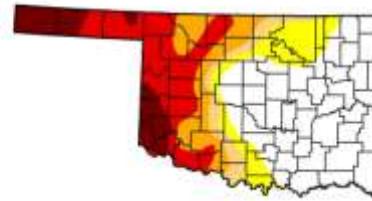
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	80.06	53.14	42.00	38.78	25.35	9.46
Last Week (5/31/2013 map)	41.58	58.41	50.87	38.50	26.35	11.24
3 Months Ago (3/16/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	83.07	53.11	9.71
Start of Calendar Year (1/1/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06
Start of Water Year (10/1/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.08
One Year Ago (6/12/2012 map)	80.78	53.22	21.34	10.49	1.70	0.00

#### Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Drought - Moderate  
 D2 Drought - Severe  
 D3 Drought - Extreme  
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



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## Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico: 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 10% of capacity. Low water storage on the Rio Grande is beginning to impact water availability for small towns.
- Texas: Statewide reservoir capacity currently at 67%, the lowest for this time of year is since modern record keeping.
- Rio Grande: Recent heavy rains have caused an increase of nearly 110,000 acre feet of water storage in Falcon Reservoir, greatly alleviating water availability issues in the downstream Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Oklahoma: Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 20% of storage capacity.

For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:

<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

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### New Mexico

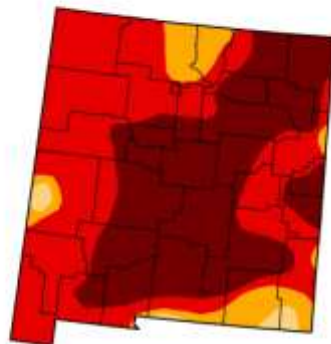
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	88.49	90.18	44.13
Last Week (5/31/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.72	82.10	44.70
3 Months Ago (3/16/2013 map)	0.23	99.77	88.47	89.85	49.95	4.25
Start of Calendar Year (1/1/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97
Start of Water Year (10/1/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	82.56	12.25	0.69
One Year Ago (6/12/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	99.44	73.03	23.46	0.00

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### Texas

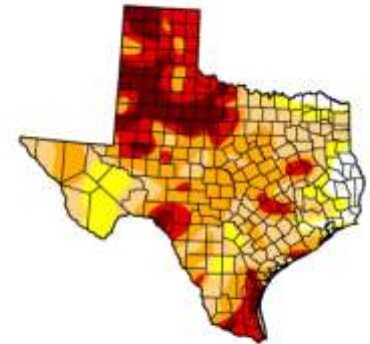
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.76	95.24	84.82	58.48	29.43	11.83
Last Week (5/31/2013 map)	5.44	94.56	84.15	59.45	32.36	14.85
3 Months Ago (3/16/2013 map)	3.04	94.36	85.52	58.53	29.30	9.88
Start of Calendar Year (1/1/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.20	65.38	35.03	11.36
Start of Water Year (10/1/2012 map)	8.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (6/12/2012 map)	9.65	90.35	86.38	26.34	8.13	0.15

#### Intensity:

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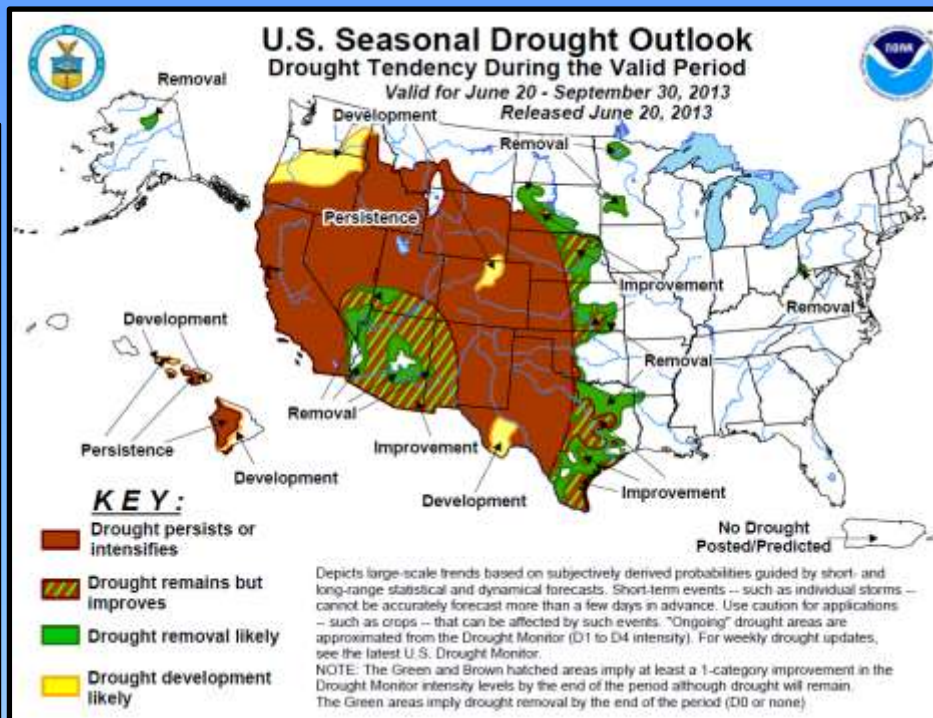
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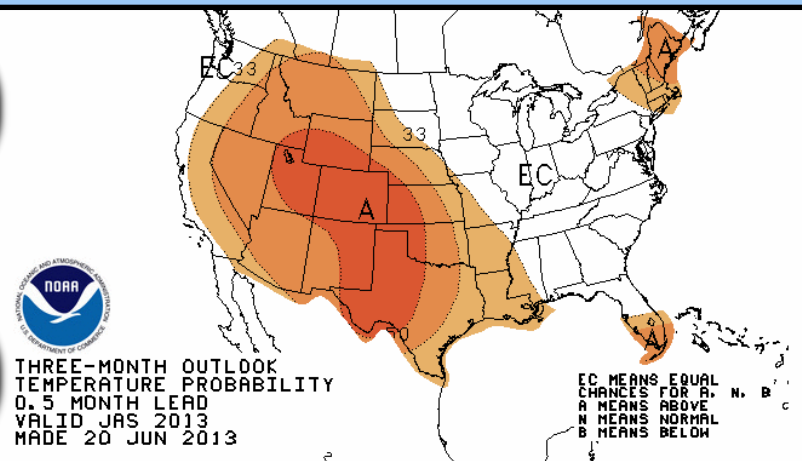
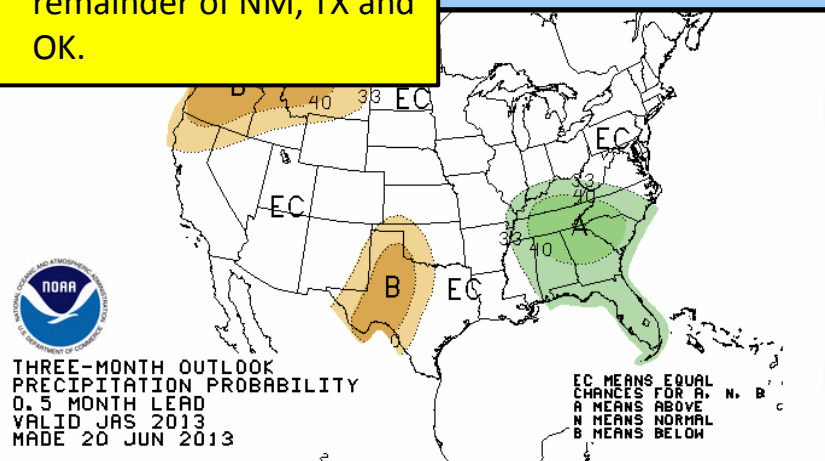
## 3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Below Normal Precipitation expected for southeast NM and west TX.
- July/August/September time period are the wettest 3 months of year for NM, accounting for 50% of total yearly precipitation.
- Equal Chances of Above Normal or Below Normal Precipitation for the remainder of NM, TX and OK.



## 3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of the southern plains.
- Highest confidence of this in NM and the panhandles of TX/OK.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir levels.



## Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Some improvement in drought conditions through September across south TX, central, TX, and northeast TX, as well as southwest NM.
- Drought expected to persist or intensify through August for remainder of NM, s western portions of TX/OK, and the TX/OK panhandles.

**This information along with other drought  
resources also available on the  
Southern Plains drought.gov web portal  
[http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-  
programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home](http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home)**



**Information provided by:  
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Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
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